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NETHE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT [IDS]

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the fining date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

- [X] 1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, as it is filed before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.
- [X] 2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., form PTO/SB/08A) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached.

(check boxes A, B and/or c and fill in blanks, if appropriate)

- [] A. Document(s) ______ is (are) deemed substantially cumulative to document(s) ______, and, in accordance with §1.98(c), only a copy of each of the latter documents is enclosed.
- [] B. Certain documents were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the following prior application(s), which are relied upon under 35 U.S.C. 120:

(insert serial numbers and filing dates of prior applications)

Applicant(s) identifies these documents by attaching hereto copies of the forms PTO-892 and PTO-1449 from the files of the prior application(s) or a fresh PTO/SB/08A listing these documents, and request that they be considered and made of record in accordance with §1.98(d). Per 37 CFR §1.98(d), copies of these documents need not be filed in this application.

- [X] C. Documents <u>AQ-AU</u> are U.S. patents and/or published applications. As this is a U.S. application filed after June 30, 2003, or an entry into national stage under 35 USC §371 after June 30, 2003, the requirement to file copies of such U.S. patents or published applications has been waived. (Office of Patent Legal Administration Pre O.G. Notice of July 11, 2003).
- [X] 3. Documents <u>AV, AW, BB and BC</u> are not in the English language. In accordance with §1.98(a)(3), Applicant(s) states:
 - [X] An English translation of each document AV, AW, BB and BC (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application, or English-language abstract (or claim) is enclosed.

In re Appln. No. 10/734,222

[X] 4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 and 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20). However, a concise explanation of relevance is being provided in the form of the attached <u>European Search Report</u>.

[X] 5. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:

European search report corresponding to co-pending U.S. application 10/754,632

6. In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for THADENDAPTO			Co	Complete if Known		
			Application Number	10/734,222		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)			Filing Date	December 18, 2003		
			First Named Inventor	Cosmas MALIN		
			Group Art Unit			
			Examiner Name			
Sheet	1	of	Attorney Docket Number	MALIN =5		

			U.S. PA	TENT DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Document Number Number-Kind Code ^{2 (if known)}	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AQ	US-5,470,744 A	11-28-1995	ASTLE	
	AR	US-5,735,587 A	04-7-1998	MALIN et al	
	AS	US-6,323,035 B1	11-27-2001	KEDAR et al	
	AT	US-6,475,776 B1	11-5-2002	HIGUCHI	
	AU	US-6,478,524 B1	11-12-2002	MALIN	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Number Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	AV	DE 198 57 282 A1	6-25-2000	Stefan STIRNBERG		Abs
	AW	FR 2 788 042 A1	7-7-2000	CHAUMAT PIERRE		Abs
	AX	EP 0 569 214 A2	11-10-1993	WALLAC OY		
	AY	EP 1 074 488 A1	2-7-2001	LICONIC AG		
	ΑZ	EP 1 256 808 A1	11-13-2002	PRECISION SYSTEN SCIENCE CO., LTD		
	BA	EP 1 354 623 A1	10-22-2003	RANDOX LABORATORIES LTD. CO.		
	ВВ	WO 98/05753 A1	02-12-1998	HERAEUS INSTRUMETNS GMBH; LICONIC AG		Abs
	вс	WO 02/059251 A2	8-1-2002	LICONIC AG		Abs

Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

^{*} EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁵ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.